

Association of Independent
Colleges & Universities of Michigan
517.372.9160

Michigan Association of
Intermediate School Administrators
517.327.5910
www.gomaisa.org

Michigan Association of
Non-Public Schools
517.372.0662
www.m-a-n-s.org

Michigan Association of
Public School Academies
517.374.9167
www.charterschools.org

Michigan Association of
School Administrators
517.327.5910
www.gomasa.org

Michigan Association of
School Boards
517.327.5934
www.masb.org

Michigan Association of
Secondary School Principals
517.327.5315
www.michiganprincipals.org

Michigan Business Leaders for
Education Excellence
517.371.2100
www.michamber.com/mblee

Michigan Community
College Association
517.372.4350
www.mcca.org

Michigan Education
Association
517.332.6551
www.mea.org

Michigan Elementary and Middle
School Principals Association
517.694.8955
www.memspa.org

Michigan Federation of Teachers
& School Related Personnel
313.393.2200
www.mftrsp.org

Michigan Parent Teacher
Association
517.485.4345
www.michiganpta.org

Michigan School Business
Officials
517.327.5920
www.msbo.org

Middle Cities
Education Association
517.347.0292
www.middlecities.org

MSU College of Education,
K-12 Outreach
517.353.8950
<http://ed-web3.educ.msu.edu/outreach/k12out>

Presidents Council,
State Universities of Michigan
517.482.1563
www.pcsum.org

The Education Alliance of Michigan

October 5, 2005

Mr. Mike Flanagan
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Superintendent Flanagan:

Members of the Alliance have met with experts who have a global view of education models and have reviewed the Michigan data regarding preparedness of our students to be successful in our new flat-world economy.

The Education Alliance of Michigan strongly supports a state required course of study to prepare students for postsecondary success and readiness for the world of work (for example: four years of grade-level English including literature, writing, reasoning, logic and communication skills; four years of math, including Algebra I and II, geometry, data analysis, and statistics; and increased rigor for science, social studies and other areas).

The state should develop high school standards that clearly describe the knowledge and skills and the level of rigor expected of required courses to ensure that educators and the public have a common understanding of what is essential for students to learn. These standards should be aligned with the K-8 Grade Level Content Expectations and the knowledge and skills required for college and workplace success.

The Education Alliance of Michigan expresses a strong sense of urgency that an action plan be developed, which identifies the issues and timelines that should be addressed to develop the required course of study.

The Education Alliance of Michigan is committed to enhancing student achievement by working cooperatively to remove the obstacles to student success. The Education Alliance provides a forum to exchange ideas and develop education policy that will improve the design and delivery of education at all levels from infancy through adulthood. The success of the Alliance has been the ability of its members to reach consensus on education issues, so members can provide leadership to their individual constituencies as well as political leaders and the public.

Respectfully,



Jim Ballard, Alliance Chair
Executive Director
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals